## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 ACDA-12 NSC-05 OES-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 EB-08 NRC-05 SOE-02 DODE-00 DOE-11 SP-02 CEQ-01 AID-05 /110 R

O P 211620Z FEB 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 044249

FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, IN

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR TOPICS

REF: NEW DELHI 2554

1. WE READ WITH INTEREST YOUR REPORT THAT SETHNA IS OPERATING UNDER THE PRIME MINISTER'S INSTRUCTIONS AND THAT THE INDIANS ARE THINKING ABOUT RENEGOTIATION OF THE BILATERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT IN LIGHT OF THE NEW U.S. LEGISLATION AND OUR HEAVY WATER OFFER. WE ARE IN NO POSITION TO JUDGE HOW SIGNIFICANT THIS DEVELOPMENT IS AND WHETHER IT REFLECTS AN INDIAN AWARENESS AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE SAFEGUARDS IMPLICONFIDENTIAL

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CATIONS OF SUCH A DIALOGUE. WE WOULD WELCOME FURTHER EMBASSY/CONGEN SPECULATION ON THIS QUESTION.

2. SINCE RENEGOTIATION OF THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT MUST A-WAIT FINAL ENACTMENT OF THE LEGISLATION AND THE PREPARATION OF DETAILED GUIDELINES, WE SEE OUR IMMEDIATE GOAL AS PRE-VENTING THE INDIANS FROM INTERPRETING OR REINTERPRETING

THEIR SAFEGUARDS CONDITIONS IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD PRE-CLUDE OUR MEETING THEM. ACCORDINGLY, WE THINK IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE TO ENGAGE THE INDIANS IN A FURTHER DIALOGUE ON BOTH THIS VITAL ISSUE AS WELL AS TO HAVE AN INITIAL EX-CHANGE ON HEAVY WATER AND BILATERAL COOPERATION. WE ARE

THINKING OF A VISIT BY JOE NYE, AND PERHAPS OTHERS, NEAR THE END OF FEBRUARY. NYE WOULD HOPE TO BE ABLE TO MEET NOT ONLY WITH SETHNA AND MEHTA/VELLODI BUT ALSO WITH SHANKAR SO AS TO OBTAIN THE FLAVOR OF PRIME MINISTERIAL OFFICE CONSIDERATION. OBVIOUSLY WE WOULD NOT SEEK ANY PUBLICITY BUT, IF A VISIT BECAME KNOWN, WOULD MERELY DESCRIBE IT AS A CONTINUATION OF OUR DIALOGUE.

3.	WOULD	APPRECIATE	YOUR VIEW	S ON THIS	POSSIBLE	SCENARIO.
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